

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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Electronic Filing With Pay-by-check Debuts April 1

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 29, 2001 — Beginning April 1, Washington businesses can file their state tax returns electronically while paying with a check. Previously, the only payment option for electronic filers was Electronic Funds Transfer, in which businesses authorize the withdrawal of funds from their bank accounts.

"Some of our customers have told us that they want to take advantage of ELF's online error-checking feature while still mailing in their tax payments the old-fashioned way," Agency Director Fred Kiga said. "Now they can do that."

Electronic Filing (ELF) is a free service that requires only a browser and Internet connection. Users enter data in a secure, encrypted environment and the system calculates taxes due. ELF steps users through a customized return, and flags any possible errors or omissions for review before the tax return is filed. This feature helps reduce the 13 percent error rate now found on paper returns.

"ELF really does help businesses get it right the first time," Kiga said.

ELF also lets users file their returns early but delay payment of taxes until the due date. This warehousing capability helps businesses avoid late payment penalties they might incur if they wait until the due date to send in their return and then fail to make the deadline.

Kiga said more than 5,000 businesses now file their returns using ELF. One of them is Jeanette Mahoney, owner of LadyTek Web Designs in Longview.

"Electronic Filing is very convenient," she said. "It was easy and just stepped me through the process, and I was able to print out all the information for my records," she said.

For more information on ELF, please visit www.dor.wa.gov/elf/elfcontent.asp or call 1-877-FILE
ELF

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